

Aboard the S.S. "Del Norte"
At Sea - Enroute Curacao
November 18, 1953

Mr. Joseph Jensen, Chairman Board of Directors
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
306 West Third Street
Los Angeles, California

Dear Joe,

Upon arriving in Rio De Janeiro on our return cruise from Buenos Aires, I received from my secretary the program and accounts of the Civic Dinner given in Van Nuys honoring Walter Mendenhall and myself on the evening of October 22nd.

Inclosed was a copy of your fine letter which Chairman Moffatt had read at the dinner.

I want you to know how much your very generous appraisal of my work means to me.

Your own outstanding work as Chairman of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California has made you know the price one must pay in time and patience to keep things running smoothly. You are dealing with a group in which each man is representative of the best in his community. And it takes quite a bit of human engineering to mend the ideas of such strong individualists.

The technical knowledge and experience you have of underground resources, possibilities for water storage, hazards of salt water encroachment, etc., furnish a basis for sound judgement and impartial decisions which are invaluable to the Board.

Visiting the principal cities along the East Coast of South America has renewed my realization of the necessity of providing adequate water and power in advance of population growth.

In Rio and Sao Paulo, the population has increased so rapidly that the shortage of both water and power is acute. Each estimates its population around 2 1/2 million.

Mr. Joseph Jensen, 306 West Third Street, Los Angeles, Calif. 2.

Sao Paulo is widely publicised as the fastest growing city in the world. But the amazing impetus it has gained as an industrial city is being threatened by lack of water and power. Seeing these things in a country where God given abundance stands in such contrast to our arid West, I feel renewed pride in the vision of Southern California leaders - who so wisely planned ahead.

You and your board hold the destiny of Southern California in your hands.

The measure of future growth and industrial development will be determined by the amount of water and power you make available for people who do not understand the price that is being paid or how difficult the job has been.

With best wishes to you and your board and my personal appreciation, I am

Very sincerely,

W. F. Whitsett

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